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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

11 September 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

North Korean action during the past 48 hours was characterized by small scale probing attacks along most of the front. Enemy troops made small gains north and west of Tangu, and penetrated defense positions south of UN-held Yonil airfield below Pohang. In the Yongchon area, however, ROK troops reported considerable gains. UN naval aircraft struck hard at defensive installations on islands in Inchon harbor, and other air units stepped up their attack against lines of communication throughout Korea.

Ground Forces

South Sector. The US 25th Division continued to hold its positions west of Masan against small probing attacks by elements of the enemy 6th and 7th Divisions. Further to the north, the US 2nd Division repulsed an enemy attack in regimental strength without loss of position, but the enemy is reported building up strength on the east side of the Nakdong River in the Hyonpung area.

Center Sector. Heavy enemy pressure forced elements of the US 1st Cavalry Division to withdraw from 300 to 1,000 yards north and west of Taegu. The ROK 1st and 6th Divisions continued to hold their positions north of Sinyong against light enemy attacks.

East Sector. Elements of the North Korean 15th Division which were forced back several miles from the Yongchon-Kyongju road by the ROK 8th Division, lost two tanks, several guns, and numerous small arms in disorganized retreat. Brisk but indecisive fighting continues north of Kyongju and south of Pohang. UN forces appear to be in firm control of Kyongju, but the UN position around Yonil is being threatened by an enemy penetration south of the airfield.

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Navy

UN naval units continued to support ground troops in the Pohang area and in the area west of Masan with harassing and interdictive bombardment. A UN naval patrol on the east coast to latitude 40° north used a helicopter to spot and control fire on land targets. The same patrol sank two enemy patrol craft and damaged four others. Naval aircraft severely damaged defensive installations on islands guarding the inner approach to Inchon harbor on the west coast.

Air Force

UN aircraft stepped up the interdiction of communications, striking in force against railroads, bridges, tunnels, marshalling yards, and highways in both North and South Korea.

II. General Situation

The South Korean Assembly voted overwhelmingly on 6 September to request President Rhee to dismiss Prime Minister-Defense Minister Sin Sungmo and Home Minister Chough Pyung Ok. The President is expected to refuse the request.

The attack on Chough is based on his alleged violation of constitutional immunities in the arrest of an Assemblyman for undercover Communist activity and the subsequent refusal to release him. Rhee and Chough maintain that it is dangerous to release a Communist agent during the hostilities regardless of immunities.

The Assembly's feeling against Sin is stronger and its causes more complex. The feeling derives from Sin's alleged unbending foreign ways, personal jealousies of prominent politicians, and the lobbying of two important South Korean generals who have been relieved for cause on General Walker's order.

The US Embassy considers both Sin and Chough to be doing outstanding jobs. ROK Assembly leaders appear impressed by the Embassy's confidential indications that a domestic quarrel would have serious external effects at this time but whether these leaders will take steps to prevent an acrimonious legislative-executive battle is not known.

Radio Pyongyang has announced the death in action on 8 September of Lt. General Kang Kun, North Korean Chief of Staff and occupant of several important political posts.

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Intelligence